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11 FEB 1949

The Honorable John E. Fearifoy
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Fearifoy:-

Pursuant to your request of 31 December 1948, the Central Intelligence Agency has examined the services rendered by the Foreign Service of the Department of State with regard to their efficacy.

The structure of CIA components and the opinions derived therefrom do not easily lend themselves to simple consolidation into over-all evaluations of the factors you cited, nor can over-all answers to your specific questions be stated in simple terms, because of numerous variables.

It is noted, however, that a preponderance of users rate the reporting of the Foreign Service excellent or very good. Those users who felt that the reporting was less adequate reached this conclusion because the coverage of certain geographic areas was less comprehensive, a deficiency generally believed to be traceable to limited funds and personnel, and to the need for the performance of non-reporting duties by Foreign Service Officers.

I am appending hereto a tabulation by areas of certain specific comments on deficiencies in reporting, together with suggestions for improving the reporting service. There have been included as well some criticism of functional reporting which is virtually world-wide in its significance.

Those countries, areas, or functional subjects which are not included in the table may be regarded as meeting the needs of this Agency with both qualitative and quantitative high rating.

As regards the character and adequacy of service received from the Office of Foreign Service in Washington, it is felt that there could be some improvement in the speed with which our requirements are served on the field, and likewise with which reports are processed to us. There also appears to be a measure of constraint applied to the furnishing to us of certain policy papers which often have a direct bearing on intelligence thinking.

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Other than these, the services of the Office of Foreign Service have been characteristically cooperative and helpful.

I am grateful for this opportunity to offer constructive criticism. I trust that it will prove helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Signed

R. H. HILLENKOTTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director, Central Intelligence

Enclosure

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